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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re: Application of: James F. Aaron****Serial No.: 10/824,265****Filed: April 14, 2004****Group Art Unit: 3679****Examiner: Ernesto Garcia****Docket No: 275143.100****HEAVY-DUTY MAT PANEL  
CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM FOR  
CONNECTING MAT PANELS****TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

March 17, 2008

Mail Stop Petition  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed are a Transmittal Form (1 pg.); a Petition To Make Special (5 pps.); an Express Mail Certification (1 pg); and a Return Receipt Postcard.

Please send all correspondence in connection with this application to Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, 535 Smithfield Street, 1300 Oliver Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Please be authorized to charge any fees and or credit any overpayments to deposit account 50-3325. The below-signed individual is an authorized user of said account.

Respectfully submitted,

David G. Oberdick, Esquire  
Reg. No. 39,527

Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LLP  
1300 Oliver Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 456-2800  
Attorneys for Applicant

DGO/lam



<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/824,265
	Filing Date	April 14, 2004
	First Named Inventor	James F. Aaron
	Art Unit	3679
	Examiner Name	Ernesto Garcia
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	275143.100

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): postcard; Express Mail Certification
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm Name	Meyer Unkovic & Scott	
Signature		
Printed name	David G. Oberdick	
Date	Reg. No.	39,527

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:		
Signature		
Typed or printed name	David G. Oberdick	Date

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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**Serial No.: 10/824,265**

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**HEAVY-DUTY MAT PANEL  
CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM FOR  
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March 17, 2008

***VIA EXPRESS MAIL***

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL**

Applicant respectfully submits this Petition to Make Special, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d), stating as follows:

1. Applicant filed the above patent application on his invention on April 14, 2004.
2. Applicant's invention relates to a heavy-duty mat panel connector and a system for connecting mat panels.
3. As reflected in the documents attached hereto as Exhibit A, there is an infringing device or product actually on the market or method in use. Specifically, Signature Fencing & Flooring Systems, LLC., f/k/a Signature Systems, Inc. ("Signature"), a former dealer for and current competitor of the Applicant, is selling an

infringing device and system. Exhibit A is page 6 of Signature's product brochure. At page 6 of this brochure, Signature describes accessories for its DuraDeck product, including "Duralinks." These links are the same as the link products and system claimed in Applicant's patent application. Indeed, the DuraDeck mat product, in general, is a copy of the Applicant's product, as is demonstrated by comparing the Signature brochure to the Applicant's brochure attached hereto as Exhibit B (including Applicant's Alturn-link product).

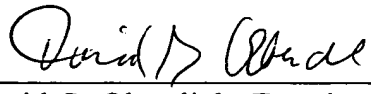
4. A rigid comparison of the alleged infringing devices has been made with the claims of the application and, in the opinion of the undersigned, the claims are unquestionably infringed.

5. Applicant has made a careful and thorough search of the prior art and has good knowledge of the pertinent prior art. Applicant, through his prior art search, has not found any references closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the present invention. The Examiner has indicated that, subject to identified corrections, certain of the claims in the pending application are allowable. The Applicant has corrected these identified claims.

6. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that, because of Signature's infringement of the present invention, the present application be made special and advanced out of turn for expedited examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d).

7. Please be authorized to charge any fees and or credit any overpayments to deposit account 50-3325. The below-signed individual is an authorized user of said account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
David G. Oberdick, Esquire  
Registration No. 39,527

Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LLP  
1300 Oliver Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 456-2881

**Attorney of Record for Applicant**

## TESTIMONIALS

"This roadway system has changed my business efficiency. No longer needing to rent track machines and 4x4 pickups. I can now back my loaded truck right out to the site on the beach. This saves me payroll and additional rental expenses, in turn giving me a greater profit per event."

Doug Van Meter,  
Rental City  
Vineland, NJ



"Everyone who sees the decking wants to know where we got it...architects, landscape designers and, of course, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Program - who required something to be used as a temporary roadway during construction. Thanks for all your help. We will be spreading the word."

Victor St. John III,  
Benson Builders  
Virginia Beach, VA



## COMPARE DURADECK TO PLYWOOD

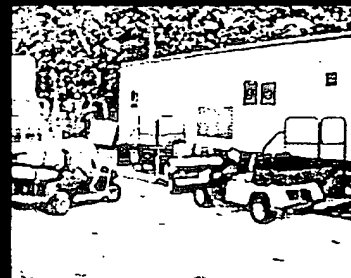
	DuraDeck	Plywood
Absorbs water	NO	YES
Can splinter	NO	YES
Can rot or be eaten by termites	NO	YES
Warps when wet	NO	YES
Contains Arsenic	NO	POSSIBLE
Contains recycled content	YES	NO
Solid and uniform construction	YES	NO
Treaded traction surface	YES	NO
Integrated connection system	YES	NO
May be used for other applications i.e. if stolen has other uses!	NO	YES
Gets Heavier when wet	NO	YES
Loses strength when wet	NO	YES

DuraDeck is clearly the preferred choice over plywood and will save you money and headache over the long term.

## DURADECK ACCESSORIES

### CONNECTOR LINKS

Signature offers 4 different connection systems to meet your specific needs. We offer 2- and 4-way metal links and 2- and 4-way plastic links, depending on your needs.



### DURALINK METAL LINKS

Our DuraDeck metal links are formed using 3/4" x 1/4" flat steel and are available in 2- and 4-way versions to connect either 2 mats together end-to-end or 4 mats together at an intersection. Large continuous roadways can be created easily for work pad extensions or turning areas can be added of any size. Use DuraLink for heavy-duty loads and for long-term projects on uneven or softer ground surfaces.

### PLASTILINK PLASTIC LINKS

Our PlastiLink plastic links are injection molded in nylon for added strength and allow sections to be connected quickly for lower weight requirement applications. They are available in 2- and 4-way versions to connect 2 mats or 4 mats to each other as required. PlastiLink's will not rust or corrode and can be used continuously in wet areas. Use PlastiLink for lighter loads on more firm sub-surfaces.

### DURAHOOK DRAG HOOKS

To speed the installation of DuraDeck, we recommend our DuraHook™ drag hook. This accessory can be inserted into pre-molded connector holes on each panel, allowing sections to be easily dragged into position.

### HOLE PLUGS™

Signature offers molded plastic Hole Plugs to fill unused connector holes for special events and other pedestrian access applications. Hole Plugs eliminate potential tripping hazards - especially when mats are down for upscale events - Hole Plugs will prevent women's high heels from getting caught in the holes.

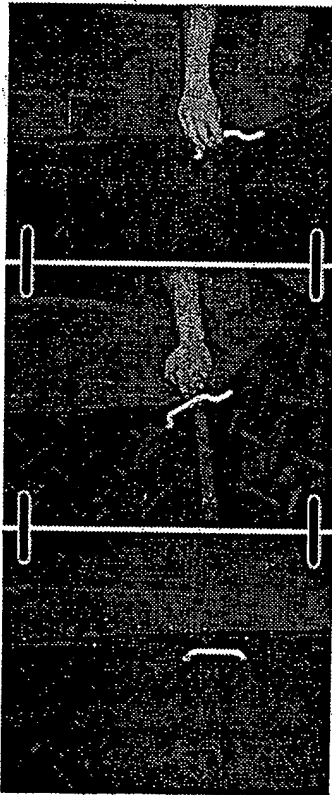
### METAL DURAPALLETS™

Signature offers extra large metal pallets for the easy transport of DuraDeck mats. Simply band sections to the DuraPallet for easy forklift handling, loading and unloading, and storage. Each DuraPallet is constructed from 1.25" square-tube metal and can hold up to 50 DuraDeck sheets.

# AlturnaMATS

## Turn-A-Links ▶

Turn-A-Links (patent pending) are a convenient way to turn AlturnaMats into a semi-permanent yet still portable roadway system. Our customers have asked for a mat connecting system and here it is. Single links connect two mats together end-to-end or side-to-side. Double links connect four mats together at the common corner. Turn-A-Links are especially useful when working in harsh site conditions or when you need to spend more than one day at a job site. Make your portable road as long or as wide as you need it with round links! Additional uses to date include: equipment storage, work site approaches, temporary construction driveways, staging areas, or work platforms. Turn-A-Links work on any size mat! Flat links designed for VersaMat applications.



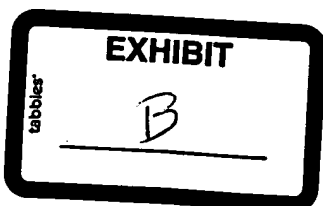
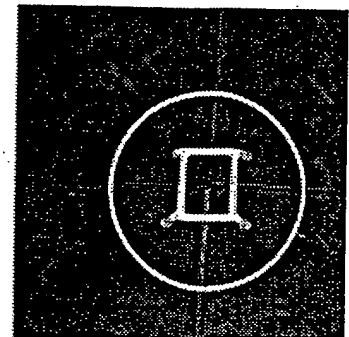
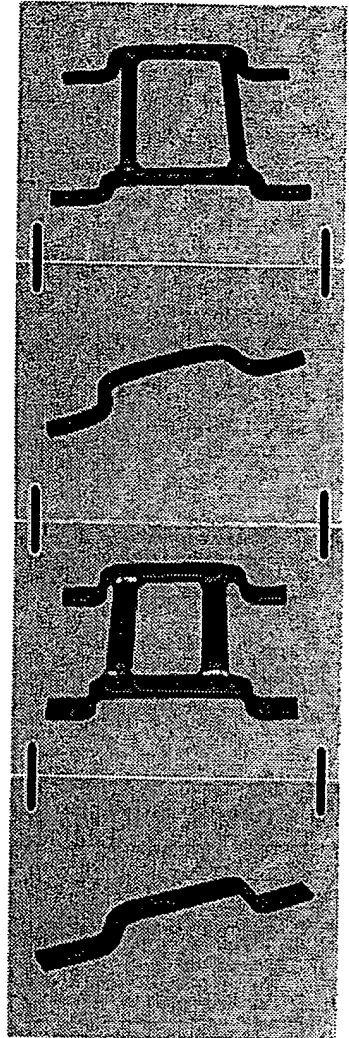
• Turn-A-Links shown white for illustrative purposes only.

### Installation Instructions: Installation of single Turn-A-Link

- 1.) Lay one mat flat on the ground. Insert short end of a single Turn-A-Link down through each corner hole on the narrow end. Slide ends of each Turn-A-Link under the mat.
- 2.) Turn second mat on narrow end and slide other end of Turn-A-Link through corresponding holes. Lay second mat down flat, end to end with first mat. You now have two mats connected together with two single Turn-A-Links, 4' end to end, to form a track 16' long. (You also can connect two mats side to side if you want a wider track.)
- 3.) Repeat step two to make a track of unlimited length.

### Installation of double Turn-A-Link

- 1.) Lay two mats flat on the ground. Insert short ends of a double Turn-A-Links in corresponding corner holes. Insert short ends of single Turn-A-Links in the outside edges. Slide ends of the double and single Turn-A-Links under the mat.
- 2.) Turn two mats on narrow ends, side by side and slide other ends of double Turn-A-Link and two single Turn-A-Links through corresponding holes. Lay both mats down flat, end to end with first mats. You now have four mats connected together at the common corners, in the center, and at the outside corners to form a working area.
- 3.) Repeat step two to make a track of unlimited length and width.



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**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION****37 C.F.R. §1.10**

Express Mail Label No.: EV 835212577 US

Date of Deposit: March 17, 2008

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Lisa Ann Mikula

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)